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New Specification

[0001] The present invention relates to a method having the features defined in the preamble of claim 1 and to a device having the features defined in the preamble of claim 8.

[0002] EP 0 615 044 A1 describes an assembly, gas-filling and pressing device for insulating glass panes comprising two pressure plates arranged in V form one opposite the other in their initial position so that they are inclined by a few degrees in opposite directions one relative to the other. A horizontal conveyor provided below each of the pressure plates consists of a line of rollers driven in synchronism, whose rotary axes extend perpendicularly to the pressure plate. The assembly, gas-filling and pressing device is part of a production line for insulating glass panes in which the first glass sheet and the second glass sheet, carrying a spacer, are fed into the assembly, gas-filling and pressing device by a horizontal conveyor moving through the production line, on which they are arranged in spaced upright positions, leaning against an inclined supporting device. That device is said to be "vertical" because the glass sheets are transported and assembled to an insulating glass pane in upright, rather than in horizontal position. The assembly and pressing device is preceded by a transportation device which comprises two supporting devices arranged in V form, similar to the arrangement of the pressure plates. A section of the horizontal conveyor, running through that conveyor device at the same level as the assembly, gas-filling and pressing device likewise consists of two lines of synchronously driven rollers extending one beside the other. That conveyor device transports two glass sheets, from which an insulating glass pane is to be produced, with a spacer arranged on one of the sheets, in paired arrangement and in V form into the assembly, gas-filling and pressing device where they are stopped in opposite, aligned positions near the forward ends of the pressure plates. They are then fixed on the pressure plates by suction. To this end, a plurality of openings distributed over the pressure plates are connected with a blower. The openings in the pressure plates permit air to be selectively drawn in or blown out. When glass sheets are moved along the pressure plates, air is blown through the openings so that an air cushion forms between the pressure plates and the glass sheets which permits the glass sheets to slide. When the glass sheets are to be fixed, the system is switched over from blowing to suction. Once the glass sheets adhere firmly to the